



*Questions to ask while...*

# Establishing an Environment for Learning



## Beliefs

What are my beliefs about my learning environment? How will these be reflected in my room?

How will I present my beliefs to students, parents, and administrators?

What are the most important areas in my room? Why are they important to me?

What areas do I like that may not be “most important”? Why do I like them?

Will students be a part of designing, organizing, and/or maintaining the room? What are the benefits?



## Space

How much space do I need in this classroom? Whose classroom is this? Will I use 1/4 of the room or 1/24, as much as each child is given?

Will we meet as a whole group? Why do I believe this?

Where will I meet with individuals and small groups for literature circles, guided reading and writing groups, math groups, focus lessons, and conferences?

Where will the students be able to work? How might the room be arranged to create spaces for quiet and partner work?

Do I want designated areas for writing, math, science, and social studies? Is the purpose of these places for students to work and/or to organize materials? What belief am I drawing on to make this decision?



Will the entire classroom library be located in one area of the room or will it be in different parts of the room? What are the advantages of both?

How will the books and reading, writing, math, science and social studies and art materials be organized and displayed?

Will I be using student desks or tables or a combination? Does everyone need a space to call their own? Why do I believe this?



## Materials

Where will students' individual materials be stored? Where will group materials be stored?

Where will student work be displayed? Why is this important?

Will I have student-generated charts or purchased charts? What do I believe about this?

How many computers, outlets, and internet ports are available and where are they? Will computers be for individual or partner work?

Where will the stapler be stored? Why?